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THE KENDRICK REPORT

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CIA BLOWS GRAND DUKE CAPER

ALEXANDER KENDRICK: Tonight, the Grand Duke Capér, or, The CIA plays Russian roulette with the policy of diplomatic recognition ...

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Despite Senator Fulbright's point that the CIA plays a major role in the making of foreign policy, the Senate establishment, headed by Russell of Georgia, has barred the Foreign Relations Committee from any participation in the overseeing of the CIA, an operation which remains as clandestine as CIA operations themselves. It is mere coincidence that at the same moment, the latest CIA caper should be blown.

This is a real Thunderball job, or perhaps, only eight ball. It comes to light in a half-page Washington newspaper ad, an open letter to the director of the CIA, signed by the heir apparent, tsarevitch and Grand Duke of Russia, Alexei Nicholalevitch Romanov, or, as they say in Hollywood, Romanoff.

The Grand Duke charges the CIA with breach of contract, and is asking it to settle his claim for \$162,000. He says the CIA agreed to pay for his family subsistence, protection and livelihood when they were brought to this country from Berlin, five years ago, but that it broke

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the contract two years ago, ten days after he had met and recognized, and been recognized by his sister, the Grand Duchess, Anastasia, or one of them, in New York.

There is no particular need for getting into the Anastasia story again, but it might well be asked, what conceivable purpose the CIA had in mind in financing, as it seems, the claimant to a throne, the 50th anniversary of the passing of which will be warmly celebrated in Moscow next year. Is there some sort of restoration plot afoot, a Slavonic Bay of Pigs, somewhere? Are they trying to raise the price of Tsarist bonds, which some investors are still hopefully holding onto? Or, is some new Ian Fleming just gathering material for another spy spoof?

In any case, the Tsarevitch cites a long correspondence with the CIA about his problem, including the fact that his claim to the Russian throne, and to a fortune he estimates at \$400,000,000, was--he says--verified by CIA representatives after identity tests, but that the CIA gave him the cover name of Colonel Michael (Goyanovski?) a name which he had never used or even heard before. He now wants not only the support money that was promised him, but recognition of his true name and title. And what does the CIA propose to do about this particular foreign relationship? Perhaps Senator Russell, the overseer, can find out. More about the Grand Duke Caper in a moment . . .

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The Russian tsarevitch's correspondence with the CIA seems to have been not only lengthy, but informative. He wrote many letters and received many replies, and in his public, open letter, he reveals the names

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and positions of various CIA personnel, which until now, presumably nobody knew but the members of Senator Russell's committee--certainly NOT Senator Fulbright's committee. But whatever lies behind this strange story, it is clear that if the CIA had only thought to scratch its Russian, it would have found a Tartar.